Instructions:

This case study is part of the required Cadet Protection Program Training (CPPT) for Civil Air Patrol. Before reading this case study, you should complete the CPPT elements found online through e-Services (www.capnhq.gov). Your squadron leaders will ask how you would respond to this situation, so draw from the training materials as you form your answers.

Case Study:¹

Members of the Southville Cadet Squadron were planning a weekend camping trip for members of the drill team. The team had won the state competition. Capt John Davis and Lt Bob Smith agreed to manage the activity and setup the trip for the following weekend. However, on Friday afternoon before the trip, Lt Smith had to cancel due to an emergency. Knowing that the cadets were all looking forward to the trip, Capt Davis decided to manage the activity himself.

After the cadets and Capt Davis arrived at the campsite, everything appeared okay except for problems with two cadets; Cadet Jim Stern and Cadet Lee Brown had been arguing most of the evening. Finally, they started fighting. Capt Davis broke up the fight and ordered Cadet Stern to stay with him (Capt Davis) in his tent. The cadets accepted the situation because Capt Davis had always been fair in handling disciplinary problems. The rest of the weekend went smoothly.

At the squadron meeting Tuesday night, Lt Smith noticed Cadet Stern appeared to be withdrawn and somber. Every time Capt Davis approached Cadet Stern, the cadet would walk away. This type of behavior was certainly not typical of Cadet Stern.

Finally, as Lt Smith and Cadet Stern were leaving the building, Cadet Stern broke into tears. Then the tears turned into anger. “I’m not homosexual,” he said, “even though Capt Davis says I am.” After he had regained his composure, Cadet Stern related the events of the past weekend. While sleeping in the tent with Capt Davis, he had awakened in the middle of the night and found Capt Davis fondling him. Afterwards, Capt Davis spent the rest of the night lecturing Cadet Stern on how the young man had caused the incident – that Cadet Stern was gay and that everyone knew it.

If you were Lt Smith, what would you do?

¹ All names and situations are fictitious.